

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, in response to the objection to the drawings, Fig. 10 has been amended to include reference numerals 30 and 33. A set of formal replacement drawings is submitted herewith, and the replacement drawings include the changes made to Fig. 10. Accordingly, the objection to the original drawings should now be obviated in view of the presentation of the replacement drawings.

Next, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of minor editorial and other clarifying amendments. Due to the nature of the revision involved, a substitute specification and abstract has been prepared. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a "marked-up" copy of the original specification and abstract to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract. The enclosed copy is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Next, original claims 1-13 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 14-32. Each of the new claims has been carefully drafted to ensure compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Note that the new claims overcome the rejections of original claims 2, 6-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Next, on pages 6-7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 2-5 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second

paragraph and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new independent claim 14 has been written to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and allowable claim 2. Thus, claim 14 is clearly allowable.

Further, new independent claim 21 has been written to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and allowable claim 13. Thus, claim 21 is clearly allowable. The remaining claims are dependent, directly or indirectly, on one of the new allowable claims, and therefore are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies. In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Etsuo MIYOSHI

By: 

Michael S. Huppert
Registration No. 40,268
Attorney for Applicant

MSH/kjf
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 3, 2005